Relocations of settlements in Limi Valley in Humla driven by natural hazards in the context of changing climate?

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS
1. Are past and present settlements in Limi located in safe sites?
2. What do the sources tell us about the reasons for past relocations?
3. Which concerns shape the perception of natural hazards in Limi?

STUDY AREA
- Harsh climate, lot of snow
- Remoteness
- Tibetan speaking community
- Ancient Buddhist monastery in Halji

RELOCATION & ABANDONEMENT

1. Til village: According to local people, the reason for moving the village was limited water availability and irrigation problems
2. Halji village: Local people explained that many generations ago, the village was moved to the current location, seeking refuge around the monastery. Several theories circulate.
3. The abandoned settlement of Gumpayok: Local legends contain several elements including the vengeful spirit of a local lama, conflict, draught, and disease

METHODS
Interdisciplinary: remote sensing, terrain analysis, historical research and fieldwork

NATURAL HAZARDS
- Debris flows, GLOFs
- Rock falls, old landslides
- Snow disaster, Oct 2014

CONCLUSIONS
1. The past locations of Til and Halji were safer from a scientific perspective
2. The reasons of relocations remain unclear, but sources suggest multiple concerns
3. The recent discussion about the relocation of Halji involves multiple environmental, economic, religious and socio-political concerns showing the complexity of risk perception.
4. Exposure to natural hazards is often overridden by competing concerns

MITIGATION MEASURES
Construction of gabion wall in Halji as a community effort.